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LIBRARIES

I CONSIDER it quite an honor, as well as quite an opportunity, to address this convention of colleges and preparatory schools of the southern states, in behalf of the local committee having in charge the national convention of librarians which convenes in Atlanta, May 1899.

While listening to the many able papers read before this body and to the spontaneous and pertinent discussions which followed, I am more than ever impressed with the importance of the library to the college and the need of efficient, especially trained librarians to successfully administer library affairs.

The spirit of coöperation which is so essential among modern educators and which has called the National Educational Association, this organization, and many similar ones into existence will appeal to you in considering the American Library Association, a short sketch of which I am here to present to you.

Organized in 1876 at the Philadelphia Centennial, to promote the library interests of the country, and to increase reciprocity and good will among librarians and all interested in library economy and bibliography, the American Library Association has grown to vast proportions, the registered attendance at Lakewood, July last, showed 490 members.

The national association has been the means of establishing local and state clubs which supplement the program of the annual meetings.

Within the association are several suborganizations of those engaged in the same specific work or seeking to accomplish some common purpose of too technical or novel character, or involving too great outlay, to belong properly to the association at large.

This section system has doubled the practical usefulness of the meetings, as every library worker can find in its best form the kind of discussion he most needs. Section meetings, except of trustees, are open to all and provide for the needs of each special class of workers, while the regular sessions are left free for subjects of general interest.

The most important sections are : elementary section devoted to the interests of the smallest libraries.

Large libraries section for the great city libraries having special problems growing out of their branches and deliveries.

College and reference section for libraries of educational institutions and the questions pertaining specially to reference rather than circulating collections.

State library section to consider all questions concerning the state's relation to library interests.

Trustees section to consider questions which are settled by the governing board rather than the administrative officers.

The publishing section has a similar name but a different work. It has charge of the preparation and publication of catalogues, indexes, and other bibliographic and library aids which the association finds it wise to undertake.

From the American Library Association have grown three allied agencies whose influence has been perhaps greater than its own.

1. *The Library Journal* is not only the official organ of the American Library Association, but its volumes form the best bibliothetical library in any language.

2. *The Library Bureau* is the library center for this country and supplies all mechanical devices for the technical fitting of libraries.

3. *Library Training Schools* which are now in successful operation at the University of New York, Albany; Pratt Institute, Brooklyn; Drexel Institute, Philadelphia; and the University of Illinois.

A plan is now on foot to add a course of library science to the University of Georgia.

Hitherto the southern librarian has been conspicuous by his absence from the national gatherings. The condition of library affairs in the South, where scarcely any municipal or state aid exists, has been such that it was practically impossible for the isolated librarian, on a small salary and with no efficient assistant to leave in charge, to profit by cooperation.

To meet this condition the American Library Association with characteristic altruism, which we call the modern library spirit, will abandon the center of library activity and hold its next annual meeting in Atlanta, May 1899.

And it is to urge this opportunity that I appear before you today. Your trustees require of the members of the faculty specialized training in every course, but the librarian who comes in touch with every department of the university and whose influence upon the students should be second not even to that of the professor, is often untrained for his work, and no matter how efficient through apprenticeship, is unable to successfully administer the library.

I beg of you to send your librarians and assistants to this meeting in order that they may acquaint themselves with what is being done in the library world, and to gain by association with experts of their own profession the knowledge and enthusiasm which characterize the modern well trained librarian.

I am particularly anxious that the southern colleges should be represented and I beg of you the coöperation which you have used to such good effect in this convention.

I thank you for your attention and courtesy.

ANNE WALLACE

STATE LIBRARY,
Atlanta, Ga.